

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 were pending in the application and stand rejected.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the additional technical features of original claim 2.

Claims 2, 5 and 10-13 are cancelled.

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to refer to claim 1.

Claims 6-9, and 14-21 remain unchanged.

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Berg* (U.S. Publication 2002/0112085 A1) in view of *Ferrari et al.* (U.S. Publication 2004/0078419 A1). Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn in view of the current amendments to claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Ferrari* at least fails to disclose the following features of amended claim 1 of the present application:

wherein the step of presetting a NAT address pool corresponding to each of the ISP egresses comprises the steps of: binding each of outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP with a corresponding one of the NAT address pools; and creating a NAT policy tree in accordance with a combination of the outgoing interface and the source IP address as a keyword upon request for access, wherein leaf nodes of the NAT policy tree store a binding relation between each of the outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP and the corresponding NAT address pool and the NAT policy information of the slot number of the NAT board.

Specifically, paragraph [0212] of *Ferrari* discloses “categorize the frame and send it to the next hop in the tree”, paragraph [0178] of *Ferrari* discloses “the PIRUS system would use NAT and policies to route the request to the correct NAS server”, paragraph [0432] of *Ferrari* discloses “NAT, is performed on packets sent to or from a virtual IP address”, and paragraph [0236] of *Ferrari* discloses “IP address and IP source Port number are the only connection lookup keys”. It

should be clear that NAT is performed to a request according to the table as illustrated in paragraph [0515] of *Ferrari* so as to route the request to the correct NAS server. In paragraph [0515], the flow entry contains the information such as source IP address, destination IP address, source TCP/UDP port, etc. However, the flow entry does not contain the information “outgoing interface”.

The currently amended claim 1 of the present application includes the features that each of outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP is bound with a corresponding one of the NAT address pools, and a NAT policy tree is created in accordance with a combination of the outgoing interface and the source IP address. Because the outgoing interface of the routing switch is bound with a certain NAT address pool, the claimed method can ensure that downlink packets to the routing switch can be received at the same interface as uplink packets from the client are sent out, thereby controlling the selection of the ISP egress corresponding to the NAT address pool. The binding relation between each of the outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP and the corresponding NAT address pool of the currently amended claim 1 is not disclosed by *Ferrari*. Further, the features *“creating a NAT policy tree in accordance with a combination of the outgoing interface and the source IP address as a keyword upon request for access, wherein leaf nodes of the NAT policy tree store a binding relation between each of the outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP and the corresponding NAT address pool and the NAT policy information of the slot number of the NAT board”* of the currently amended claim 1 are not disclosed by *Ferrari*.

Berg fails to disclose the binding relation between each of the outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP and the corresponding NAT address pool and the features *“creating a NAT policy tree in accordance with a combination of the outgoing interface and the source IP address as a keyword upon request for access, wherein leaf nodes of the NAT policy tree store a binding relation between each of the outgoing interfaces connected with the ISP and the corresponding NAT address pool and the NAT policy information of the slot number of the NAT board”* of the currently amended claim 1.

Hence, the combination of *Berg* and *Ferrari* fails to disclose or suggest the above-discussed features of the currently amended claim 1 of the present application. It is therefore

respectfully submitted that the currently amended claim 1 is patentable under 35 USC § 103 over *Berg* in view of *Ferrari*.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 6-9, 14-21 include the features of independent claim 1, which is patentable as discussed above, and are therefore patentable under 35 USC § 103(a) for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

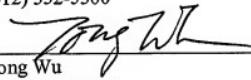
SUMMARY

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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